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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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04333-0023

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VI.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: April 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Report of Findings regarding the request of Lesley University to renew its current authorization to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine

BACKGROUND: On March 9, 2016, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to receive the Lesley University Report of Findings regarding preapproval of authorization to offer credit bearing courses in the State of Maine. The report of findings is derived from evidence and interviews collected at the February 12, 2016 video conference with Lesley University faculty and administrative staff. Dr. MaryEllen Mahoney-O'Neil from the University of Maine facilitated the video conference and chaired the review team. Prior to the delivery of the report of findings to the State Board, Lesley University examined the document for errors of fact.

Lesley University was authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2011 to offer classes online and through face-to-face format at the Berwick Academy and has received three five-year-renewals since 2001. Incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, Lesley University is authorized to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts Department of Education. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has continuously accredited Lesley University since 1952.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education approve Lesley University's renewal of authorization to offer credit bearing programs in the State of Maine for the period of spring 2016 to spring 2021.

*Presented by Ángel Martínez Loredó, Higher Education Specialist
Maine Department of Education